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ANACONDA ALUMINUM COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES: LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

April 22, 1968

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
P. O. BOX 1654
LOUISVILLE, KY. 40201

Mr. Frank Laird
Anaconda Aluminum Company
Columbia Falls
Montana 59912

Dear Frank:

This is to confirm our conversation regarding our intention of replacing some part of the isopropyl alcohol that we use with methanol. As we discussed, we use isopropyl alcohol as a solvent for shellac. Methanol is a better solvent and in addition, is much less costly than isopropyl alcohol.

As we discussed, we are concerned that we do not create any health hazards through the use of methanol, and I plan on setting up an air sampling program to determine the amount of alcohol present in the air at the operator station, and we will compare this later when we begin using methanol. The laboratory has sampling tubes plus a gas chromatograph for the analysis of the atmosphere. We will begin sampling very shortly and will sample for a period of two weeks. After that time we will begin using a mixture of 90% isopropyl alcohol and 10% methanol. This is considered to be totally safe by the government, however, we will begin sampling the air to determine whether or not we start picking up methanol. Our plan is to eventually increase the amount of methanol to reduce our costs. As we continue to increase the amount of methanol, we will continue sampling and record the data.

I had representatives from the Commercial Solvents Corporation visit our plant to discuss this with me and attached is a photocopy of their letter dated March 1, 1968. As you can see, Mr. Bennett feels we have quite adequate ventilation, however, we will still go forward with the sampling program.

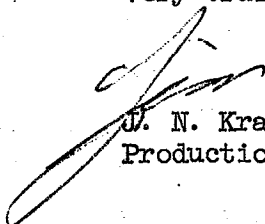


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Attached is a photocopy of the front page of a brochure regarding American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. Also attached is a photocopy of Page 11 from this same brochure which lists the threshold limits on Methyl Alcohol.

As this progresses and we develop more information, I will keep you advised as we agreed. In the meantime, if you have any further questions on this, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


J. N. Krause
Production Manager

JNK:mg

Attachments

cc: W. E. Perkins
W. B. Dickinson